Sustainability Commission Built Environment Working Group Meeting Report

Date: Thursday July 10, 2008 - 8:30AM. Marks Thomas, Architects

Subject: Built Environment Working Group

In Attendance: Julie Gabrielli, Ruth Ann Norton, Gary Suskauer, Jake Ruppert, Sarah Zaleski, Kara Hubbard, Jeff Carrroll, Madeleine Shea, Bronwyn Phillips, Elieen Murphy, Terra McFee, Caroline Moore, Tom Liebel, Julie Day, Prescott Gaylord

Discussion: The meeting began with 3 presentations. Kara Hubbard spoke on TransForm Baltimore, Baltimore City's comprehensive rezoning effort. Julie Day spoke on the dissolution of Project 5000 and the creation of the Land Bank. Bronwyn Phillips highlighted The Baltimore City Comprehensive Master Plan as it might relate to the BE. After the presentations the meeting returned to the vision statement "Baltimore has a built environment that integrates and benefits people, communities, and natural systems" and brainstormed on specific goals, targets & strategies.

Topics addressed:

Presentations

- TransForm Baltimore goals:
 - o To be easy to use and flexible
 - o To update Use categories
 - o To create design standards that create and preserve quality places
 - o To create parking stnds that reduce auto dependency & encourage TOD
- The Baltimore Metropolitan Council is working on a project that encompasses similar principals as TransForm Baltimore and the suggestion was made to coordinate the efforts
- Project 5000 no longer exists. The 10,000 abandoned properties & vacant lots will be managed by a land bank for more efficient acquisition & deposition. Legislation is now being drafted for a September introduction with a target to go live Spring 2009.
- Highlights of The Baltimore City Comprehensive Master Plan were touched on

White Board Brainstorming

GOALS

- Environmental health standard FOR ALL BUILDINGS
- Economically self-sufficient neighborhoods
- Built community & promote civic engagement
- City development process (public & private) that embraces & advances sustainability
- Business creation & entrepreneurship
 - o Increase capacity of local, diverse business to do Green
- Foster & strengthen community through excellent placemaking
- Affordable housing integrated into all neighborhoods
 - o Homeownership
- A model school system with students who are ecologically-literate, engaged and confident citizens
- Inspire stewardship of the natural environment
- Reduce Urban Heat Island
- Slow down stormwater
- Wider definition of "life safety"

TARGETS

- Green/eco & environmental entrepreneurship curriculum in public school & higher education levels
- Engage youth/make it relevant
- Business hubs/incubators for green business
- Civic buildings embrace & model cutting edge green (ie green roof on City Hall)
- Building & zoning codes require cool roofs & integrated/innovative stormwater management

STRATEGIES

- Buy local
- Use resources wisely
- Integrated design process as the norm
- Training for all contractors local & minority in GREEN
- Enhance safety/community coherence

Outstanding Issues

- Location of the next working group meeting
- Ideas for further research or presentations
- Logistics Collective X reminder

(http://baltimoresustainability.collectivex.com/main/summary)

Upcoming Events:

Future meeting dates (bold are Community Conversation)

- Thurs, July 17, 6pm (Department of Planning, 417 E. Fayette St. 8th Flr)
- Wed, Aug 13
- Wed, Aug 20, 6pm (Brooklyn Public Library, 300 E. Patapsco Ave.)

Commission on Sustainability meets the 4th Tuesday of every month at 4pm in the Department of Planning Boardroom (417 E. Fayette St. 8th Floor).

Next meeting July 22nd.